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Class F204

Book H17U57



HALL OF RECORDS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN REGARD TO

A PROPOSED HALL OF RECORDS AND A LOCATION FOR THE SAME

JANUARY 15, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 14, 1898.

SIR: Act of Congress, approved June 11, 1896, provides, among other things—

That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to submit to Congress a plan giving the size and general characteristics of a public building to be used for a hall of records in the city of Washington, suitable for the storage of papers, documents, and other records which have accumulated in the various Departments and are needed only for occasional use, and also for the storage and distribution of books and other publications issued by order of Congress; and said Secretary is directed before making his report to consult with the heads of the other Departments and the proper officers of the Senate and House of Representatives; and he is also directed to consider and report upon the suitability for a site for such a building in the public reservation at the intersection of Ohio and Louisiana avenues with Tenth and Twelfth streets, and of any other public grounds located within the city of Washington within reasonable distance of the Departments to be accommodated by such a hall of records.

It appears from information received from other Departments that there are no "other public grounds" available for a site for the proposed building in the city of Washington within reasonable distance of the Departments to be accommodated, except the parks and reservations.

The question of the suitability of the site specifically referred to in said act has been given such consideration by this Department as was possible in the absence of an appropriation for investigating the character of the soil for foundations, and a report was submitted to Congress in reference thereto under date of January 7, 1897. Until it shall have been definitely determined, by tests, borings, etc., that said site is not suitable for the erection of a hall of records thereon, this Department does not feel justified in making any recommendation in regard to the

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matter. It is to be noted, however, that the Potomac River, in time of flood, has several times covered the specified site. On June 2, 1889, it flooded the reservation to a depth of about 4 feet 6 inches.

From information obtained upon consultation with the heads of the other Departments and the proper officers of the Senate and House of Representatives, it appears that a building proportioned to the present requirements, with provision for increase for a moderate period, should have a capacity of approximately 4,000,000 cubic feet.

I inclose herewith two tentative sketches for the proposed hall of records, marked Design A and Design B.

Design A is of dimensions suitable to be erected on the site referred to in said act of Congress. The limited area of the site for this design made it necessary to carry it nine stories in height, the building to be 400 by 120 feet, of approximately 4,000,000 cubic feet capacity, of fire-proof construction, and being estimated to cost \$1,200,000.

Design B is for a building to be erected on another site in case it is determined that the site for Design A is, for any reason, not suitable.

Design B shows a building 400 by 70 feet having four stories, fire-proof construction, and estimated to cost \$450,000. It will be observed that the capacity of this design, approximately 1,000,000 cubic feet, is considerably less than what will ultimately be required, as provided by Design A. Design B, however, offers this advantage: The building is capable of extension, as indicated on the plan, without impairing its architectural appearance, to the approximate capacity of 4,000,000 cubic feet. The portion of the building shown will, when completed, relieve the present congested condition of files storage, and extensions could be made at some future time, and ultimately complete the quadrangle.

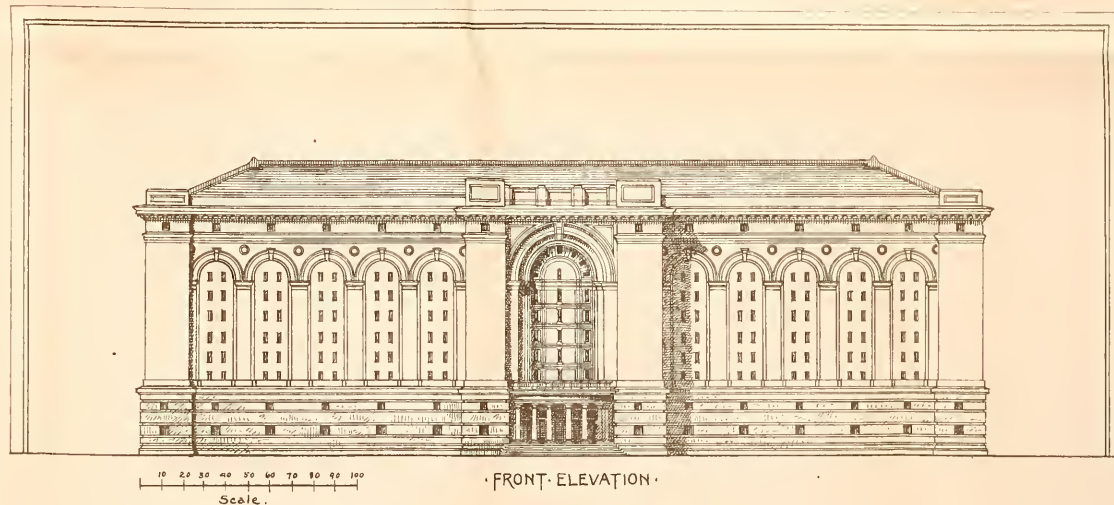
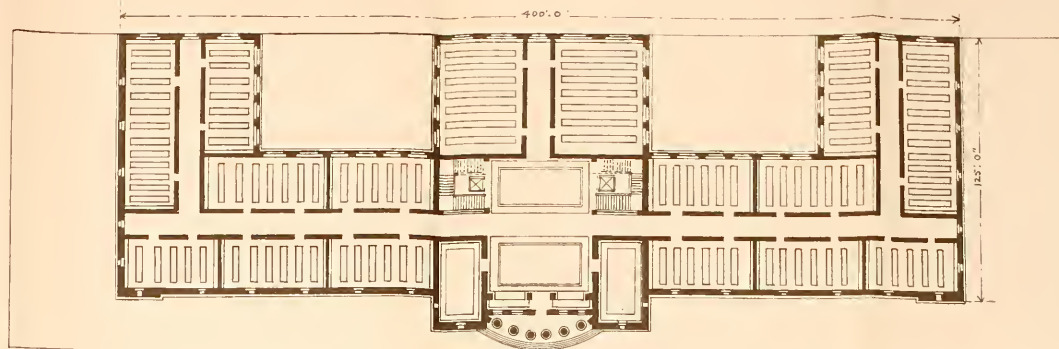
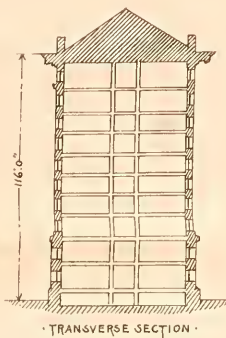
Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

To the SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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TENTATIVE SKETCH FOR PROPOSED HALL OF RECORDS -

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Design A

James Knox Taylor,
Supervising Architect
TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

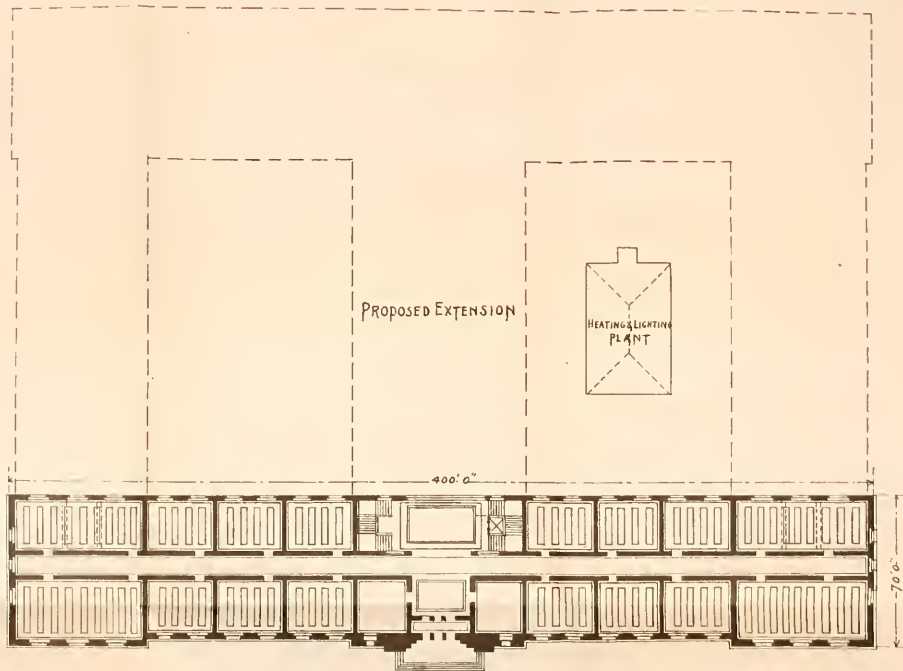
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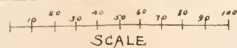
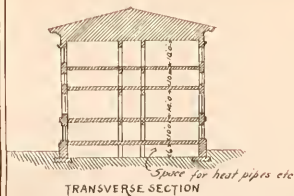
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FIRST STORY PLAN



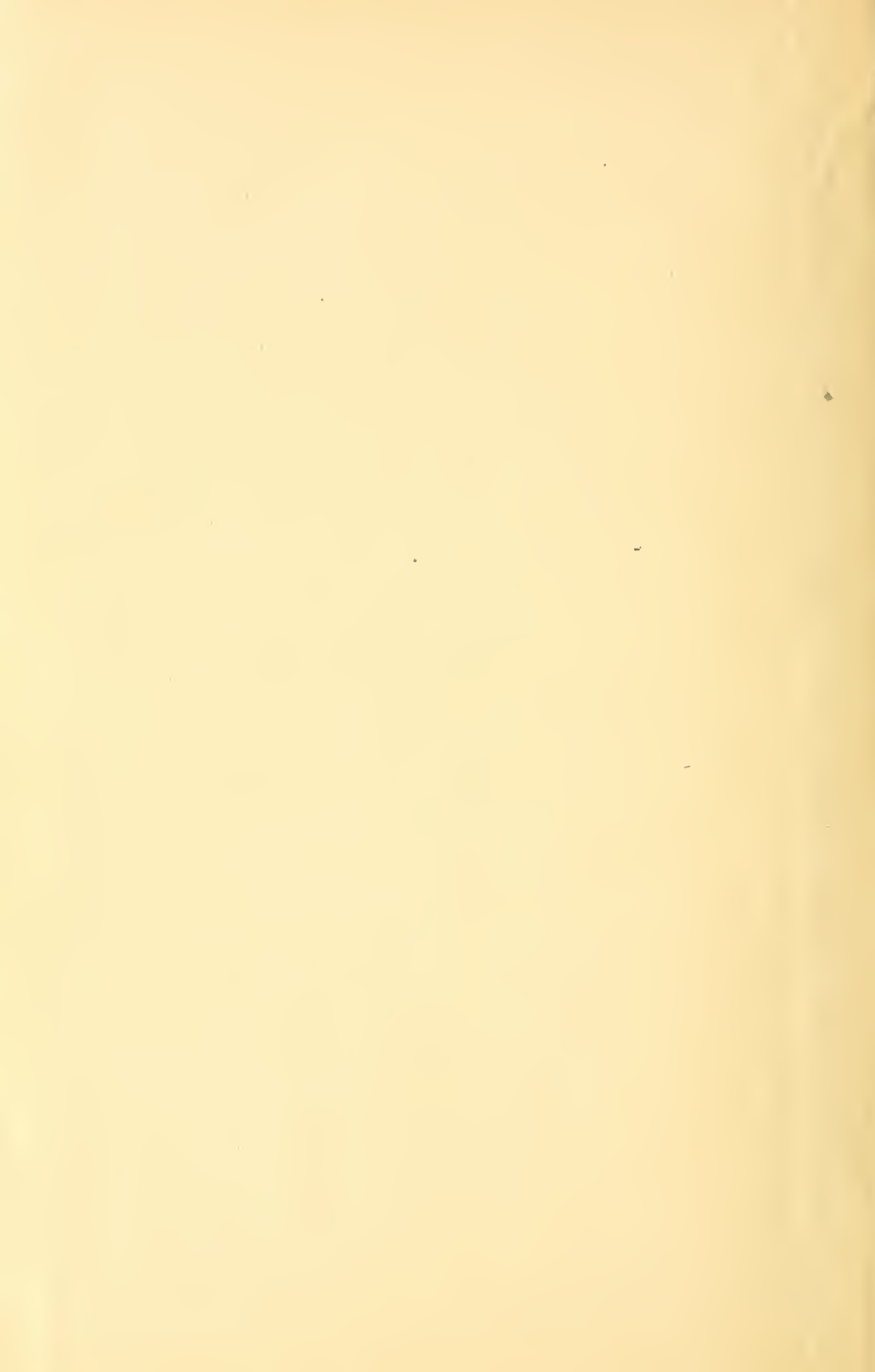
FRONT ELEVATION

TENTATIVE SKETCH FOR PROPOSED HALL OF RECORDS -

WASHINGTON D.C

Design B

James Knox Taylor.
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT
TREASURY DEPARTMENT



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